

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/760,730

Examiner

Susanna M. Diaz

Applicant(s)

MASUDA ET AL.

Art Unit

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicant's after-final amendment filed June 21, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3,4,6-11 and 13-16.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Susanna Diaz
Susanna M. Diaz
Primary Examiner
AU3623

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kurt Goudy (Reg. No. 52,954) on June 27, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 7, lines 17-20:

Please delete the following:

"by operation name and when a match is found; and

recursively executing another search using the operation name found in the thesaurus database."

Please insert the following:

-- by operation name; and

when a match is found, recursively executing another search using the operation name found in the thesaurus database. --

Claim 9, lines 14-17:

Please delete the following:

"by operation name and when a match is found; and

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recursively executing another search using the operation name found in the thesaurus database.”

Please insert the following:

-- by operation name; and

when a match is found, recursively executing another search using the operation name found in the thesaurus database. --

Claim 10, lines 13-15:

Please delete the following:

“by operation name and when a match is found, and recursively executing another search using the operation name found in the thesaurus database.”

Please insert the following:

-- by operation name and, when a match is found, recursively executing another search using the operation name found in the thesaurus database. --

Claim 13, lines 18-20:

Please delete the following:

“by operation name and when a match is found; and
recursively executes another search using the operation name found in the thesaurus database.”

Please insert the following:

-- by operation name; and

when a match is found, recursively executes another search using the operation name found in the thesaurus database. --

Reasons for Allowance

2. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-11, and 13-16 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Stuart (U.S. Patent No. 6,466,935) addresses the recited limitations regarding the breakdown of project tasks into basic elements required to perform each project task, wherein each element has a corresponding operation name. However, Stuart does not disclose the use of a thesaurus database, wherein the control unit searches the operation names in the thesaurus database and checks whether any of the operation names in the thesaurus database matches a request for searching the classified executive element by operation name and when a match is found, the control unit recursively executes another search using the operation name found in the thesaurus database. Harel (U.S. Patent No. 6,064,381) is directed toward identifying human difficulties with using a computerized system. The user can identify intended tasks to be performed. The system can infer which tasks the user was trying to complete and make suggestions as to the inferred tasks; however, Harel does not teach or suggest use of an actual thesaurus database to check whether any of the operation names in the thesaurus database match a request for searching a classified executive element by operation name and, when a match is found, to recursively execute another

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search using the operation name found in the thesaurus database. Davis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,757,692) discusses the use of synonym tables with thesauri, yet these synonymous tables are not used in a workflow context as recited in the claimed invention. The prior art is not seen to disclose or suggest the use of a thesaurus database, wherein the control unit searches the operation names in the thesaurus database and checks whether any of the operation names in the thesaurus database matches a request for searching the classified executive element by operation name and when a match is found, the control unit recursively executes another search using the operation name found in the thesaurus database in the recited workflow environment set forth in claims 1, 3, 4, 6-11, and 13-16; therefore, claims 1, 3, 4, 6-11, and 13-16 are deemed to be allowable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

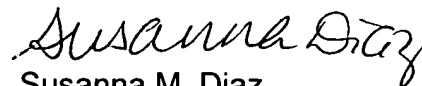
Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susanna M. Diaz whose telephone number is (571) 272-6733. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10 am - 6 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Susanna M. Diaz
Primary Examiner
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June 27, 2006